(c) As such the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, which has been operational since February, 2006, does not seem to have any adverse impact on the agricultural production and productivity.

Fodder bank

1947.SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is providing Central funds to the States for the establishment of fodder banks in the States to meet the exigencies in natural calamities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds released to Maharashtra, so far, for the purpose and the results achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The component relating to the establishment of fodder banks was dropped from the concerned scheme with effect from 1.4.2005.

(c) Before the closure of the subject component, the State of Maharashtra was released an amount of Rs. 41.25 lakhs in 2001-02 and a similar sum in 2004-05. While the funds released in 2001-02 for establishment of a fodder bank in District Beed were utilized, the funds released in 2004-05 were refunded by the State Government.

Financial assistance for horticulture to Goa

1948.SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any scheme/schemes to give financial assistance to the State Governments for the development of horticulture;

(b) if so, the names of the schemes available with respect to various plantations/crops;

(c) the essential features of each of the schemes; and

(d) the details of the financial assistance given to the Government of Goa in the matter of each of the schemes, in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North-Eastern States (TMNE) including Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand and the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in the remaining States and Union Territories for the development of horticulture. Under these schemes, assistance is provided for production and distribution of quality planting material of elite cultivars, establishment of new gardens, rejuvenation of senile plantations, adoption of new technologies, protected cultivation, promotion of Integrated Nutrient Management/ Integrated Pest Management, organic farming, creation of water resources, Human Resource Development through training and visits, development of infrastructure for post harvest management and marketing.